

Public Library

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

The People's Rights—A Representative Democracy—The Union and the Constitution Without Any Infractions.

VOL. XLIX. NO. 41.

WHOLE NO. 4440

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1912.

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

Woodstock, Vermont.

Printed Saturday Morning

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

WOODSTOCK NEWS

PIED PIPER PLEASURES

Successful Entertainment for the Benefit of the High School Piano Fund.

The Pied Piper of Hamelin charmed away the rats and then the children once more at Music hall last Friday night, just as he did, according to Browning's famous poem, in the old Dutch town of Hamelin away back in the year 1366. The play, in three acts, was a succession of attractive scenes, with about eighty prettily costumed children taking part, and the story with accompanying music was most effectively told to a large audience.

The play was given under the direction of Linwood Taft after several months of preparation, and the High school orchestra, which has been under his instruction for a year or more, rendered the instrumental part of the musical program, and played with remarkable precision and smoothness. Part of the music was arranged by Mr. Taft that in the second act bring taken from the music written by James T. Smead for the Thetford pageant of 1911. This was the first appearance of the orchestra in Music hall and it received a loud ovation from many clapping hands.

The printed program covered a very long sheet of paper and told the whole story, which is familiar to grown-ups and to most children. The first act opens in the market place of Hamelin, and closes with the disappearance of all the children of the city, charmed away by the Piper (Miss Mildred Fuller) in revenge for the refusal of the reward promised him by the mayor for ridding the city of rats.

In the third act all the children are playing and singing in Never-Never Land, where all is peace and sunshine and happiness.

The chorus of school children sang nicely under the direction of Mrs. B. Pinney, their instructor. Miss Karen Pinney sang a solo prettily, and another of the musical lights of the piece was a duet, "I Know a Bank," by Raymond Carbiou and Edward Green. Applause forced them to repeat part of it.

The second act pictures the wonderful dream of a little lame boy, to whom the entrance to Never-Never Land was closed. A fairy (Frances Spear) appears. She takes the aid of the nature spirits—mountain, Miss Elizabeth Aitken; intervals, Miss Mary C. Dana; and river (Miss Beatrice Cox), and joining forces they heal the boy, who acquires his crutch and dances with the fairy. Little Miss Spear made a very beautiful fairy, dancing and singing charmingly, and the dance by Miss Cox was gracefully done in the poetic spirit of the dreamland scene.

For the second act, Mr. A. B. Wilder painted a mountain scene—familiar one, the happy children seen at play under the shadow of Woodstock's own Mount Tom.

The entertainment was given for the benefit of the High school piano fund, which is increased by about one hundred dollars.

Fourth Annual Farmers' Week

The fourth annual Farmers' Week will be held at the University of Vermont and State Agricultural college during Washington's birthday week. Sessions begin Monday afternoon Feb. 19, and close Friday, Feb. 23. Addresses and demonstrations will be in progress morning, afternoon and evening.

For programs of the Burlington Farmers' Week, Feb. 19-23, apply to L. Hills, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Burlington.

Secretary of the Navy Meyer will visit several warships to visit Baltimore during the Democratic national convention.

Montpelier Urged to Copy Woodstock.

"Nothing could be of more importance in the capital than the warm interest evidenced in the matter of winter sports," says the Montpelier Argus. "Every opportunity to enjoy them should be offered and the result will be that people from out of the state as well as the surrounding country will be attracted here. The plan has worked out exceedingly well in Woodstock where on such holidays as Washington's birthday the largest hotel in the place has every room engaged, mostly by parties from Boston and New York. And Woodstock is not nearly as accessible as Montpelier."

Woodstock is pleased at any reference to its success as a winter resort, but doesn't like to be referred to as inaccessible as compared to the capital city, though it's not on the main line and misses some of the roar of inter-state traffic and state conventions. Montpelier is two or three hours farther than Woodstock from Boston, New York and other points to the south to which it must look for winter visitors, and it will take more than a change in time tables to alter their relative positions on the map.

HOLIDAY MASS MEETING.

Presidents Benton and Butterfield Will Speak at White River Junction.

There will be a mass meeting at Gates opera house in White River Junction on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, at 1.15 p. m. President Kenyon L. Butterfield of Amherst, Mass., will speak on "The Business of Citizenship." President Guy Potter Benton of Burlington on "The New Loyalty." Hon. Andrew Elliott of Guelph, Ontario, a veteran farmer's institute worker all over Canada and the United States, will speak on some aspects of the new movements and methods among farmers.

There will be good, rousing music by 200 voices of school children, a chorus of 50 voices of high school pupils, and a town orchestra. The people of Woodstock and vicinity are cordially invited. Admission free.

Plans to Double Track the Central Vermont

General Assistant Warman of the Grand Trunk is quoted as follows:

"For the past year we have had under consideration the double-tracking of the Central Vermont main line from the boundary to White River Junction. Plans and specifications for this work are already completed. It is our intention to build from Vermont through New Hampshire and to Boston a double track railway of Grand Trunk standard, 100-pound steel rails, steel bridges and no grade crossings."

The Champion Butternut Cracker.

Constable William Foote of South Burlington has cracked and shelled 450 bushels of butternuts since Dec. 15 for A. R. White. Mr. Foote says he stands ready to crack the same amount with any man in the same length of time, or one bushel or two bushels, with the same implements, namely a hammer and stone, for the sum of \$50.

Bishop Hall May Resign.

The Episcopal diocese of the state is concerned over a letter written by Bishop A. C. Hall of Burlington to the Mountain Echo, the Vermont diocesan paper, referring to his long illness and to the fact that his physicians insist that he must not travel about the diocese at present and ordering him South for March and April.

After that in May and June he hopes to perform his duties and make the remaining visitations of the diocesan year. If by that time he is not equal to the work required of him Bishop Hall says he ought to resign and shall beg to be allowed to do so. He does not favor the appointment of a coadjutor bishop and says the canons do not provide for one.

Vermont's Material Progress

In the current number of the Vermonter Maxwell Everts of Windsor, under the heading "Material Progress in Vermont," takes up William S. Rossiter's much discussed and much criticized historical and statistical study of the state. A few paragraphs are taken from Mr. Everts' article:

"Unfortunately for the reputation of Vermont Mr. Rossiter did not have the agricultural returns of the 1910 census when he wrote his paper. They have since come in and make a magnificent showing, indicating beyond any doubt that the West is no longer any menace to the East and that Vermont is surely coming back to her own, i. e., as one of the great agricultural states, not only of New England but of the country. The value of the farm property of Vermont has increased from 1900 to 1910 from \$108,451,427 to \$145,399,728, or over 34 per cent. The value of the land and buildings per acre has increased from \$17.58 in 1900 to \$24.14 in 1910. The value of live stock on the farms was over 26 per cent. greater in 1910 than in 1900, being over \$22,000,000 in 1910, as against over \$17,000,000 in 1900."

Mr. Everts arranges the "great facts" about Vermont as follows:

- 1 That her population has increased more in the last ten years than in any other decade since the Civil War.
- 2 That "there is an army of 168,000 allies in the Vermonters in other states scattered indeed all over the Union but possessing an undimmed love for the fatherland."
- 3 That her people are of the purest Anglo-Saxon stock in America.
- 4 That alone of all New England she has withstood the competition of the West. The competition is now ended and Vermont is coming forward with great strides to her old place of a leader among the farming states.
- 5 That the great inventive faculty which came up the river with her first settlers from Connecticut and which circumstances compelled to lie dormant is now being developed with her own capital.

Vermont Reprint No. 48. Published by the Spirit of the Age. For sale by the Elm Tree Press, Woodstock, Vt.

GREATEST NAVAL BASE IN WORLD

It May Be Established in Narragansett Bay.

NEW YORK NAVY YARD SALE.

If Congress Authorizes It the Greater Project May Result—England Completing a Mammoth Naval Base in the Firth of Forth.

In the event of the proposal that the government sell the New York navy yard and establish in Narragansett bay the chief naval station of the North Atlantic coast being authorized by congress navy officers are looking forward to the construction of a naval base such as will surpass anything of the kind in the world.

The navy department is giving much attention to the tremendous naval project which England is now completing. At Forth on an arm of the Firth of Forth there is under construction a naval base which will surpass all others now in existence. The construction work now under contract will cost \$20,000,000. The British admiralty is to spend \$30,000,000 in perfecting the naval base. Work is being done by a force of 2,500 men. There is a bonus of \$500,000 waiting for the contractors if they finish their part of the job by 1914.

England's Main Base.

The base is designed to be the main base of all operations of the British fleets in the North sea. While operations are being conducted with considerable secrecy some facts have become known to the United States Navy department. Many navy officers are convinced that this government should prepare to establish a similar base in Narragansett bay as soon as possible. It is known that the Forth base will have six drydocks large enough to accommodate the largest battleships now built, building or even contemplated. It will have a basin large enough to accommodate an entire fleet of battleships and battle cruisers. The water surface which will be available for berthing and anchoring in this basin will comprise an area of fifty-two acres.

There will be a separate basin for the submarines and destroyers. Floating docks for the convenience of the submarines and destroyers will be provided in the basin. Ways upon which the largest battleships can be

built are to be constructed. It is proposed to make this a yard for the building of new ships as well as a repair station and shelter for those already in the fleet.

New Town to Be Opened.

Huge coaling depots will be established with every facility for the rapid coaling of the fleet. In addition there will be an arsenal, naval stores, power and lighting plants, all sorts of machine and gun shops and wireless station.

There is now no town at Forth, but it is expected when the station opened a town of from 50,000 to 60,000 inhabitants will grow up around it.

It is expected at Washington that Narragansett bay affords opportunity for the United States to build a naval base which will be all that the Forth station is to be to the English fleet.

At present this government has no yard and basin combined anywhere near adequate for the needs of the fleet.

DRUGGIST GETS FORTUNE.

From Tramp to Whom He Gave \$1 Eight Years Ago.

Joseph Clair, a Philadelphia druggist, has received word that a dollar given to an apparent tramp several years ago is about to be returned with interest, the interest amounting to \$124,999.

According to Clair, one morning about eight years ago a man apparently suffering from the effects of a night out entered his store and told him a hard luck tale, and Clair gave him a dollar. When the man got the dollar he told Clair that he never would forget it. Clair promptly forgot the incident until a few years ago the same man entered his store and made him a present of a gold handled cane. Recently Clair received a letter in which he is informed that a Wyoming rancher by the name of Joseph Waters had died and had left his entire property to Clair.

MEET AFTER 48 YEARS.

Brothers, Who Thought Each Other Killed in War, Are Reunited.

After forty-eight years, during which each thought the other had been killed in the civil war, Louis Nidey of Kendallville, Ind., and Reason Nidey of Antwerp, O. brothers, were reunited. In the whole period of separation they lived within fifty miles of each other.

A nephew of Louis Nidey and a son of the Antwerp brother met recently and in conversation their relationship was disclosed.

A young wild cat, but a big one, was run over and killed the other day by a trolley car near Pownal.

TWO GIFTS FROM A KING.

A Story of Frederick William I. and Locatelli, the Violinist.

The severity of the Prussian king, Frederick William I., especially toward the son who became Frederick the Great, has given him a perhaps undeserved reputation for sternness. Anecdotes that reveal gentler qualities are related in "The House of Hohenzollern." One anecdote in particular shows that Frederick William could even take a rebuke good humoredly.

In Berlin assemblies and dinner parties were often given, and the king was a frequent guest at the houses of the foreign envoys and at the houses of his own subjects. He was always most amiable on these occasions and, with his jokes and gaiety, quite the life of the evening.

When the king of Poland, Augustus the Strong, visited Berlin he was accompanied by the famous violinist, Locatelli. Although Frederick William hated virtuosi, he was obliged to listen to this artist, who appeared in a coat of blue velvet embroidered with silver.

"The fellow looks like a minister of war at least!" the king ejaculated. But, wishing to be civil, he sent him 20 thalers by a servant.

The artist sent the king his homage and thanks, but handed the money as a gratuity to the servant who had brought it.

On hearing of this Frederick William was indignant and complained to Augustus of the impudence of his fiddler. Augustus, however, pointed out that an artist of the eminence of Locatelli was accustomed to receiving presents of gold watches, snuff boxes and diamond rings.

Frederick William therefore decided to have a laugh at him. A second concert was arranged, after which the Prussian king himself gave the artist a snuff box filled with ducats and added, "You are so magnificently lavish that I should prefer on this occasion to earn the gratuity myself."

But the resourceful artist was not to be overmatched. He replied that such a present from such a king was too weighty for him to part with.

"Boots and Saddles."

The well known call of "boots and saddles" is really a corruption of the old French signal *boute-selle*—"put on your saddles"—from *bouter*, to put or place, and *selle*, saddle. The medieval saddles were of such cumbersome and heavy make that they were taken off the horses whenever possible. In Mathews' "Powerful Favorite" of 1628 occurs the phrase "the trumpets sounded *boute-selle*."

In 1709 Steele wrote in the Tatler, "The sound was changed to 'boots and saddle,' but it seems probable that the phrase ran in its present form before that date, possibly coming into use during the civil war among the Roundheads, to whom the old French *boute-selle* would seem pandering to the Cavalier and French tendencies of the court.—London Times.

A Gypsy Prophecy.

An English magazine relates a curious instance of gypsy prophecy. The third Earl of Malmesbury, as Lord Fitzharris, was riding to a yeomanry review near Christchurch when his orderly, some distance in front, ordered a gypsy woman to open a gate. The gypsy woman quietly waited till Lord Fitzharris and his staff rode up, when she addressed them, saying, "Oh, you think you are a lot of fine fellows now, but I can tell you that one day your bones will whiten in that field." Lord Fitzharris laughed and asked her whether she thought they were going to have a battle, adding it was not very likely in that case they would choose such a spot. More than forty years later the field was turned into a cemetery.

Her Case Is Hopeless.

A little girl became so accustomed to exaggeration and misstatement that nobody could believe her, and her parents were greatly annoyed by the unfortunate reputation that she was acquiring.

One afternoon her mother said to her: "Now, listen, Lillian, and heed my words. What has happened to Ananias and Sapphira, don't you?" "Yes'm, I do. They fell dead on the street corner, and I saw 'em carried into a drug store."

Cause of His Distress.

A Scot and his friend were spending a few days sightseeing in London. While crossing one of the busy thoroughfares near Trafalgar square the friend had the misfortune to be run over. Sandy was very excited, so much, indeed, that one of the bystanders asked him if the victim was a near relative.

"Na, na," replied Sandy in despairing tones, "but he has on a pair o' ma breeks!"

IVORY AND BLOOD.

The Tusk Is White in Color, but Its History Is Red.

The ivory market of the world is to be found in London—in Mincing lane, in fact—and there you will find stored all the ivory that enters the London docks from time to time. Sales are held periodically, and prior to a sale the ivory is placed on view for the benefit of prospective buyers.

The elephant, for the most part, supplies our ivory, and each year, it is stated, some 50,000 elephants have to be secured. The fact is, however, that a great quantity of ivory is taken from dead elephants—animals that have died naturally and have not fallen before the hunter's gun.

When large herds of elephants roam a district you may be quite sure that an elephants' cemetery is to be found somewhere in the locality. To this cemetery all ailing elephants repair, and very often there they die.

It is a great stroke of luck to discover an elephants' cemetery, for a fine haul of ivory is certain to be secured. But ivory is found lying in the forests from time to time. The animals shed tusks now and again, and of course these tusks lie as they fall, ready to be picked up.

At the present time there is a great shortage of ivory all over the world. The demand is always greater than the supply. But there are big stores of ivory in the universe for all that.

In several parts of Africa the chiefs of savage races have big stocks on hand, but these chiefs quite understand the commercial value of ivory and never at any time do they put a large quantity on the market. It is doled out in small parcels, so to speak, so evidently these chiefs have a good idea of what a "corner" means in the commercial sense.

Ivory is white in color, but its history is red. It has an evil past, most particularly the ivory that emanates from the storehouses of savage chiefs. These chiefs have often come by their ivory in no recognized commercial way. Usually each piece of ivory added to the store means the loss of human life. These chiefs will commit murder in cold blood in order to secure a tusk! Those in the ivory trade will tell you that ivory, or rather, the gaining of ivory, has cost more human lives than war, and that is saying a good deal.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Australian Aborigines.

The tribes of central Australia are among the last of the primitive races. They are nomads who stray through the huge and deserted tracts of this great continent, hunting with spear and boomerang. They are with few exceptions cannibals. Living in huts made of the boughs of trees, they have no household utensils. They count on their fingers only and only to the number of ten, but they decorate the rocks with rude attempts at drawing and make efforts to ornament their shields. Their art is determined and distinct, but inferior to that of the western European epoch of the reindeer. Their most singular characteristic is their social conventionality; they have fixed prejudices concerning marriage.

Standing the Test.

To test a sentry an officer after the salute said:

"Let me see your rifle." The recruit handed it over, whereupon the officer said in disgust: "You're a fine soldier! You've given up your rifle, and now what are you going to do?" The young fellow drew out a dangerous knife and exclaimed, "Give me that rifle or I'll cut your heart out!"

The officer was more than convinced that he would, and hastily handed the weapon back—"A Little Tiger's War Diary," by C. W. Bardeen.

How to Preserve Old Photos.

A unique way to preserve old photos is as follows: Put the photographs into clean hot water; very soon the pictures loosen and may be easily removed from the cards. When dry, either trim down to economize space or carefully cut away the "background" entirely. Mount them in a scrap book or a book made especially for kodak pictures. You will then have a book with which you can spend many happy moments looking over familiar scenes and faces.—National Magazine.

The Ruling Passion.

A gambler on his deathbed, having seriously taken leave of his physician, who told him that he could not live beyond 8 o'clock next morning, exerted the small strength he had left to call the doctor back, which having accomplished with difficulty, for he could hardly exceed a whisper, "Doctor," said he, "I'll bet you 5 guineas I live till 9."—London Tit-Bits.